

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant:	: B. Driehuys et al.	
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the prosecution of the captioned application, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/953,668 filed September 16, 2001, which is a division of application Serial No. 09/712,374 filed November 14, 2000 , now issued patent 6,305,190, which is a division of application Serial No. 09/210,020 filed December 11, 1998, now issued patent 6,199,385, which claims priority from Provisional Application Serial No. 60/069,435, filed December 12, 1997.

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.